

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HEW-01 L-01 OES-02 CIAE-00 INR-05

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P 021400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4936

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6558

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS DHEW ASST SECRETARY COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USEGJC EG

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON GOE PROPOSED DRAFT  
BILATERAL HEALTH AGREEMENT

REF: CAIRO 6321

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON DRAFT  
HEALTH AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARE AND USG GIVEN US BY DR.  
MAZEN. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT CONCEPT OF MEDICAL COOPERATION  
AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT EXPANDED. WE RECOGNIZE  
EGYPTIANS ARE LIKELY TO TRY TO ASK FOR MORE THAN WE  
CAN PROVIDE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE OVERALL  
EGYPTIAN INTEREST EVINced BY THE PROPOSAL OF THIS  
DRAFT HEALTH AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. AT THIS  
TIME WE BELIEVE PROTOCOL CONTAINING STATEMENT OF  
PRINCIPLES WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN FULL BLOWN  
BILATERAL AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. DRAFT AGREEMENT IS A REFLECTION OF WHAT THE  
EGYPTIANS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
(MOH), WANTS FROM US. AS DEPT AWARE, OUR CURRENT  
RESEARCH PROGRAMS ARE CARRIED OUT NOT ONLY WITH MOH,  
BUT ALSO WITH UNIVERSITIES, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE  
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TO MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND WITH NATIONAL

ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE TO MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. DRAFT AGREEMENT REFLECTS MOH'S ATTEMPT TO GAIN RECOGNITION AS OVERALL COORDINATOR FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN EGYPT. WHILE UNDERSTANDABLE, WE SHOULD BE AWARE IT IS NOT PRACTICAL CASE. WE SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR EXCELLENT COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES AND NATIONAL ACADEMY BY APPEARING TO ENDORSE MOH A VETO OVER PROJECTS WITH THEM. INDEED, WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY DR. BEDRAN, VP CAIRO UNIVERSITY WHO POINTED OUT TO US THAT THE DOCUMENT REFLECTS MOH PRIORITIES AND DOES NOT REFLECT UNIVERSITY OR RESEARCH COMMUNITY THINKING. WHILE WE MUST CONTINUE OUR DISCREET EFFORTS URGE BETTER INTERAGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATION ON GOE, THERE IS LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO IN THIS REGARD.

3. IN FURTHERING MEDICAL COOPERATION, VARIOUS USG ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN EGYPT, NAMELY DHEW, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, SHOULD BE MOBILIZED TO GIVE THE MAXIMUM HELP POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO STATIONING OF AID HEALTH OFFICER IN EGYPT, WHICH WILL MORE EFFECTIVELY PERMIT AID ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH FIELD. FOR PLANNING AND OTHER PURPOSES. IT IS ESSENTIAL AID CAIRO PLAY A ROLE IN FUTURE HEALTH PROGRAMS. WE BELIVE ANY BILATERAL HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT SHOULD SPECIFICALLY MENTION THESE OTHER AGENCIES.

4. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING COMMENT IN DETAIL, THERE ARE SEVERAL SALIENT AREAS WHERE OUR COOPERATION WILL BE VALUABLE. A) FIRST IS IN THE WORK ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT. WE ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN RESEARCH ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN EGYPT AND USG IS SPONSORING, THROUGH ONR, IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR A CONFERENCE ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS. THIS IS MAJOR AREA OF CONCERN TO GOE WHERE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOBILIZE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR RESEARCH. B) SECOND, CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVISION OF MEDICAL TRAINING IN ALL FIELDS IS A SUBJECT IN WHICH WE SHOULD SEEK BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE. RECENTLY SIGNED AID TRAINING GRANT WOULD MAKE SOME TRAINING IMMEDIATELY POSSIBLE. C) IN THE FIELD OF CANCER RESEARCH WE SHOULD ALL DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO UPDATE AND ASSIST EGYPTIAN PROGRAMS. D) RE MIXED POLICY COMMISSION PROPOSED BY MOH, THIS STRIKES US AS REDUNDANT. JWG

ALREADY EXISTS AND, AS SEEN FROM HERE, COULD BE ADEQUATE FORUM FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. E) THE CATEGORY OF COOPERATION IN DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SERA, VACCINES AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS ARE ALL AREAS IN WHICH WE ALREADY COOPERATE AND COULD BE INCLUDED IN WRITTEN DOCUMENT. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND HOWEVER THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE TYPE OF COOPERATION MENTIONED IN THE EGYPTIAN DRAFT FALLS WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF THE US PRIVATE SECTOR. WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO UNDERCUT EXISTING OR PROJECTED PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE PFIZER, IN ANY BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

5. IN MAKING ABOVE OBSERVATIONS, AND BEARING IN MIND CAVEAT WE SHOULD NOT COMMIT OURSELVES TO PROGRAMS WHICH WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FULFIL, IT OCCURS TO US THAT A PROTOCOL CONTAINING SERIES OF BASIC PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION (PERHAPS INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE) WOULD BE MORE USEFUL DOCUMENT TO EMERGE FROM THIS JWG THAN FULL BLOWN BILATERAL AGREEMENT. PROTOCOL WOULD HAVE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE OF ENABLING CONCRETE DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED AT TIME OF JWG MEETING, WHICH MOHI EL-DIN SEEMS TO DESIRE, YET AVOID NEED MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. INTERAGENCY MOBILIZATION OF USG RESOURCES COULD FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF SUCH A PROTOCOL IN ANY CASE. DHEW AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES ARE IN BETTER POSITION JUDGE USEFULNESS OF THIS IDEA AND TO DRAFT NECESSARY PROTOCOL TEXT. CAPT MINER OF NAMRU IS AWARE OF EMBASSY'S THINKING ON SUBJECT AND CAN SPEAK FOR US.

6. WE LOOK FORWARD TO REPORT ON MEETING.  
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7. DR. AHMED MAZEN , UNDERSECRETARY MOH, JUST CALLED TO SAY THAT THE MINISTER REQUESTED THAT A FURTHER PROVISION BE INCLUDED IN HIS DRAFT REGARDING FAMILY PLANNING. ASSISTANCE IN FAMILY PLANNING IS, OF COURSE, CONSISTENT WITH US POLICY AND IS ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT HERE IN EGYPT THROUGH AID AND DHEW SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUNDS SCIENTIFIC GRANT PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH THESE GRANTS ARE NOT WITH MOH, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE THEREFORE TO INCLUDE CAREFULLY WORDED AGREEMENT TO ADVISE ON FAMILY PLANNING WHICH MIGHT MEET THE MINISTER'S REQUIREMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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